Govt. signals shift in stand, allows EU MPs to visit Srinagar

Embassy in Delhi says parliamentarians are in India in their ‘personal capacity’

IS chief Baghdadi killed in U.S. raid

Cornered terrorist set off suicide vest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the Islamic State (IS) group’s elusive leader Abu Bakr al-

Outright insult of Parliament,

European Union grants Brexit delay

Doctors’ strike enters fourth day

The doctors’ strike entered the fourth day on Monday.
### The Hindu News Analysis – 29th October 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Now, online applications must for 301 services under Sakala</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sakala crosses 20-cr. mark</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cutting Red Tape (Data Point)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Curbs on forest bamboo hits Kolams, Naikpods</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>‘Unintended pregnancy endangers mother, child’</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Civil service probationers train at Statue of Unity</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sakala crosses 20-cr. mark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

While Sakala has achieved a distinctive milestone of receiving and disposing over 20 crore applications since its inception in April 2012, Bengaluru Urban has performed the worst in disposing files under Sakala in September.

As on October 26, S. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Labour and Sakala, noted that 20,09,94,713 applications have been received in all and 20,02,84,447 disposed.

Revealing details of the district-wise monthly analysis of Sakala mission in September, Mr. Suresh Kumar said the top performing districts for September are Chickaballapur, Hassan, Shimoga, Chamarajnagar, and Mandya; while the bottom three are Bengaluru urban, Bagalkote, and Bidar.

“This is mainly due to lack of coordination between agencies and technical problems. We have reviewed Bengaluru’s performance and what action needs to be taken. The Regional Commissioner has been asked to monitor and ensure coordination between various agencies such as BBMP, BWSSB, BESCOM, and Bengaluru Urban District Commissioner’s office,” he said.

Quoting the monthly analysis in September, he said while 25,76,030 applications were received, 25,03,582 had been disposed. A total of 23,860 pendency was observed as on October 26. Strike rate (in-time disposal) for the month of September has been 97.18%, he said.

He said: “People are told they can get services done quickly without going through Sakala, which is not true. We have told officials there is no place for bypassing any application, they should be taken under Sakala.”

Now, online applications must for 301 services under Sakala

Karnataka government’s move an effort to eliminate middlemen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In an effort to eliminate middlemen, the State government has made online applications mandatory for 301 services under Sakala. Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act, 2010. A Government Order will be issued soon.

Announcing this at a press conference on Monday, S. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Labour and Sakala, said this was introduced with the idea to bring in the concept of “faceless,_cashless and paperless” service delivery.

“End-to-end online services will be provided through Seva Sindhu kendras for 301 services from 43 different departments. Seva Sindhu is aimed at providing services with e-sign and digi locker facility. It is being integrated with various service delivery channels of the State government, such as Bangalore One, Karnataka One, with an aim to bring all departmental services under one platform. We have started 8,000 centres in rural areas,” he said.

With the paperless ecosys-

tem coming into force, will physical applications under Sakala be stopped? Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar explained that physical applications will continue to be accepted in centres that are close to residential areas like urban local bodies and gram panchayats. “However, where offices are situated far off such as taluk and district offices, no physical applications will be accepted,” Mr. Suresh Kumar said.

“We will make online applications compulsory in services where there is involvement of more middlemen such as getting BBMP katha done, non-agriculture land conversion, and Regional Transport Office among others. This will ensure no place for middlemen and all transactions happen online,” he said. Further, going ahead of Seva Sindhu, the government also introduced the concept of ‘Jananevada’ aimed at delivering services to citizens at their doorsteps. Pointing out that it is being tested on pilot basis in T. Dasarahalli Assembly constituency, Mr. Suresh Kumar said Jananevada will be implemented in Bommanahalli, Rajajinagar, and Mahadevapura Assembly constituencies soon.

PM shows interest

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown ‘special interest’ in Sakala, to look at the possibilities of using it at the national level, he said.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charts, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
Sakala

* The Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011
  (The Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act, 2011)

* Guarantee of services within a stipulated time limit

* Right to Service

* Monitoring the status of application, e-Governance of services, appeal mechanism for aggrieved citizens

* Section 8 - Citizen is statutorily entitled to seek compensatory cost - in case of delay or default

* Defaulting authority
  → liable to - pay compensatory cost
  → disciplinary action

* brings transparency, accountability and predictability of services delivery

News

* State govt. decides to make all applications to be made via online mode
  → to eliminate middlemen
  → to achieve ‘faceless, cashless and paperless’ service delivery
* Seva Sindhu Kendras to provide end-to-end online services for 301 services from 43 depts.
  → e-sign, digi-locker facilities

* Janasevaka – service delivery @ doorsteps
India has been consistently climbing the table in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index. In the 2020 edition of the report, of 190 economies India is among the top 10 which saw the biggest leaps from their 2019 rankings. However, among BRICS nations India’s ranking is lower than that of China and Russia. By Varun B. Krishnan

Snakes and Ladders | The chart shows India’s rankings among the EDB sub-indicators in the 2015 and 2020 editions. Eight out of 10 sub-indicators showed an improvement.

- Construction permits
- Getting electricity
- Resolving insolvency
- Trading across borders
- Paying taxes
- Enforcing contracts
- Starting a business
- Getting credit
- Protecting minority investors
- Registering property

Among peers | India, like China, saw massive improvement in its ranking, in the last two editions of the report, but China and Russia still rank better than India.

A different scale | However, the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness ranking 2019 (which has a few overlapping indicators with the EDB) found India dropping 10 spots between 2018 and 2019.

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
Doing Business - 2020

* Released by World Bank
* Ease of Doing Business Index
* India → 63rd rank / 190 countries
* Based on regulations that enhance or constrain business activities
* Effective Regulations → to protect workers, to ensure public safety etc.
  Ineffective Regulations → adverse to economic growth
* Covers 12 areas

Total score - 100

⇒ Top performers - New Zealand (86.8), Singapore (86.2), Hong Kong (85.3) etc.
⇒ India - 71 → among top 10 countries that improved the most

Note: The employing workers and contracting with the government indicator sets are not included in the ease of doing business ranking.
India's ranking

* 2015-19

Between 2015-20

- India improved in 8/10 indicators
- Dropped rankings in, (2020 report)
  - protecting minority investors → Rank 13
  - registering property → Rank 154

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Global Competitiveness Index 2019

*released by World Economic Forum

*India → ranked 68th (2019), down from 58th rank (2018)
Previous Year Question – Prelims 2019
(Reference only)
Q. Which one of the following is not a sub-index of the World Bank’s ‘Ease of Doing Business Index’?
(a) Maintenance of law and order
(b) Paying taxes
(c) Registering property
(d) Dealing with construction permits

Previous Year Question – Prelims
(Reference only)
Q. The Global Competitiveness Report is published by
(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
(c) World Economic Forum
(d) World Bank
Curbs on forest bamboo hits Kolams, Naikpods

S. HARPAL SINGH
ADILABAD

The serious efforts being put in by the government to protect forests in erstwhile undivided Adilabad district has made life a little difficult for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) – Kolam and Naikpod – which depend upon bamboo extracted from forests for a livelihood. Though the amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has classified bamboo as a grass to lift restrictions on its cultivation, harvest and transportation outside forests, the legal constraints on its extraction within forests remain the same. The government has failed to view the issue in the backdrop of the Provisions of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) which has been implemented in many PESA villages recently. It empowers local tribal communities to exercise rights over customary resources like minor forest produce, among other things and bamboo forms part of it. There are about 6,000 Kolam and 2,500 Naikpod families, mostly living in forest habitations or on forest fringes in old Adilabad district, who depend upon bamboo for a livelihood but cannot afford to purchase it from the Forest Department which harvests and sells it in Kagaznagar, Asifabad, Bellampalli and Mancherial divisions. They make baskets and mats and their traditional market is the larger Raj Gond tribe and since the last 100 years or so, the non-tribals living in the Agency tracts. “We are only against extraction of bamboo through unsustainable methods which can be rectified through proper training of the local communities,” observed Adilabad District Forest Officer B. Prabhakar as he indicated that the Kolams will be allowed to cut bamboo in forests for traditional livelihood purpose. “We will not stop with creating awareness,” added Additional Project Officer in charge of PVTG affairs at the Utnoor Integrated Tribal Development Agency B. Gopi. The ITDA official called for a proposal to train the Kolams in design diversification and marketing from some selected villages among the 40 habitations which are being developed as model villages across the ITDA project area.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

- Listed by Ministry of Home Affairs
- Criteria
  1. Pre-agriculture level of technology
  2. Stagnant or declining population
  3. Extremely low literacy
  4. Subsistence level of economy
- 75 tribal groups in 18 states and Union Territory of A & N islands

News
- Kolam Tribe
  - Reside in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

- Listed as PVTG in A.P., Telangana and Maharashtra
- Along with Naikpod Tribal group, they depend on bamboo in forests – for livelihood
- Amendment in definition of ‘tree’ in Indian Forest Act, 1927
- Provisions on minor forest produce in
  - The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
  - The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
*Issues requiring attention*

- Expansion of market for bamboo products made by dependent tribal groups
- Training to diversify the designs they make
- Training tribal groups to sustainably extract bamboo from forests.
‘Unintended pregnancy endangers mother, child’

WHO study highlights need for high-quality family planning

A study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 26 countries found that two-thirds of sexually active women who wished to delay or limit childbearing stopped using contraception for the fear of side effects, health concerns, and underestimation of the likelihood of conception. This led to one in four pregnancies being unintended.

 Globally, 34 million women living in low and middle-income countries have unintended pregnancies annually. This leads to 25 million unsafe abortions and 47,000 maternal deaths every year. WHO warned that unwanted pregnancies may lead to a wide range of health risks for the mother and child. The risks include malnutrition, illness, abuse and neglect, and even death. Unintended pregnancies can further lead to cycles of high fertility, as well as lower educational and employment potential and poverty challenges which can span generations.

As per the figures published by Lancet last year on the incidence of abortion and unintended pregnancy in India, it is estimated that 15.6 million abortions occurred in India in 2015. “In India the abortion rate was 47 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. 3-4 million abortions (22%) were obtained in health facilities, 11.5 million (77%) abortions were medication abortions done outside of health facilities, and 0.8 million (5%) abortions were done outside of health facilities using methods other than medication abortion,” the study had said.

In India, abortions accounted for one-third of all pregnancies, and nearly half of the pregnancies were unintended.

The WHO report stated that modern methods of contraception had a vital role in preventing unintended pregnancies.

Mari Nagai, former medical officer for Reproductive and Maternal Health at WHO and an author of the report, said that high-quality family planning offered a range of potential benefits that encompassed not only improved maternal and child health, but also social and economic development, education, and women’s empowerment.

“Prosperity and health are intertwined,” Nagai said. “And not just for women and children but for society as a whole.”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I – (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important International institutions, agencies and fora—their structure, mandate.
WHO study: in 36 low and middle income countries

* 2/3rd of sexually active women who wished to delay or limit child bearing - stopped using contraception

* Reasons:
  1. Fear of side effects
  2. Health concerns
  3. Underestimation of the likelihood of conception

* Impacts
  1. Increase in abortions
  2. Health risks for mother and child (malnutrition, illness etc.)
  3. Cycles of high fertility
  4. Bring down educational and employment potential for women
  5. Potential to affect generations

Global Statistics
  * 74 million women (in MIC & LIC) → unintended pregnancies annually
  * 25 million unsafe abortions
  * 47000 maternal deaths
India in 2015

1.56 crore abortions

3.4 lakh (22%) in health facilities
1.15 crore (73%) outside health facilities (medication)
8 lakh (5%) - methods other than medication

How to prevent?

1) Use of modern methods of contraception

2) High quality family planning
   - Educating women
   - Socio-economic development
   - Women's empowerment

3) Shared decision making while choosing contraceptives

4) Early identification of concerns of women
   - Help to switch methods
   - Respect for rights and dignity for women
   - High quality counselling
   - Sexual health protection

5) Improve skills of doctors, nurses and midwives
   - To provide effective family centred counselling
Civil service probationers train at Statue of Unity

500 newly recruited bureaucrats participating in a six-day foundation course

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• Role of civil services in a democracy.

PAPER-V

General Studies-IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

• Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.

• Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration

Keywords: Aarambh, Statue of Unity and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Aarambh (Beginning)

* Centre’s first ever common foundation course (IAS/IPS/IRS/IFS)

* It includes

⇒ Six-day training & seminars by experts

⇒ Mentorship Program – ‘Nurture the Future’

⇒ Civil Service official ← Youth

• Career guidance

• Professional guidance
**Statue of Unity**

* Built in the honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
* Tallest Statue of the world (182m)
* Stands on the isle of Sadhu-Bet in River Narmada @ Kevadia, Gujarat

**Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** (on 31st October)

* National Unity Day
* Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
* For his efforts made to unite India.
PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. The ‘Sakala mission’, frequently seen in news, is

a) Mission to Improve nutrition standards of young children up to 5 years of age

b) E-Governance initiative of the Central Government for retired Army personnel

c) A proposed mission by ISRO to launch robot to outer space

d) A mission by the State Government of Karnataka for guaranteed timely delivery of citizen services.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. The Ease of Doing Business index is released by

a) International Monetary Fund

b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

c) World Economic Forum

d) World Bank
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

1. Both the Kolam and Naikpod tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.
2. The categorization of PVTGs is done by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
3. One of the criteria followed for determination of PVTGs is ‘moderately low literacy’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 3 only  
(d) None of the statements are correct

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. “Statue of Unity” often in news refers to

a) Rashtriya Ekta Diwas  
b) Statue built on the isle of Ken-Betwa confluence.  
c) Statue built in the honour of Sardar Sarovar Dam  
d) World’s tallest statue built on the isle of Sadhu-Bet.
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option – ‘d’ – A mission by the State Government of Karnataka for guaranteed timely delivery of citizen services.

Q2. Option – ‘d’ – World Bank

Q3. Option – ‘d’ – None of the statements are correct
